Hair Loss in Cats

Cats 9+ Years Old

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HAIR LOSS IN CATS

Yes

- 1 Woods Lamp and DTM culture (or PCR)
- 2 Skin scraping and treatment of ectoparasites

No / Not Sure

Demodex gatoi

- 1 Treat patient and all feline housemates
- 2 Continue treatment for 8 weeks or longer until all clinical signs resolve

Fleas

- 1 Treat patient and all pets in the home
- 2 Continue preventatives year round

Notoedres cati. Chevletiella spp., Otodectes cynotis, other ectoparasites

- 1 Treat patient and all pets in the
- 2 Continue preventatives year round

Dermatophytosis (**)

THY

- 1 Treat until hair coat is normal
- 2 Treat until 2 negative follow up tests 2 - 4 weeks apart

DTM Negative and there is no response to treatment of ectoparasites.

Consider congenital alopecia or follicular dysplasa if present for most or all of animal's life

If this condition is recent in onset consider the following:

The patient is not better with treatment

- 1 Was treatment long enough?
- 2 Was the owner compliant?

The skin condition is facially centered (may have excoriations, crusts, and alopecia)

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Differentials

A - B - D - E - H

- 1 Milary dermatitis
- 2 Eosinophilic granuloma
- 3 Eosinophilic plaques 4 Indolent ulcer
- 5 Head and neck pruritus

A - B - E (Miliary dermatitis)

There is overgrooming without crusts or sores Differentials:

Crusting and

tons on face

areas

hair loss with or

without excoria-

and other body

A-B-D-E-H

A-B-C-F-G

Diabetes Mellitus - Common endocrinopathy in the cat

- 1 Bacterial pyoderma
- 2 Thin skin and alopecia
- 3 Dry seborrhea
- 4 May have prior history of steroid use for allergies or IBD
- 5 Diagnose with routine complete blood work and urinalysis

Thymoma associated exfoliative dermatitis - Rare in

- 1 Marked large scale and flaking on most body areas
- 2 Hair coat may be unkempt
- 3 Skin may be thickened with or without erythema
- 4 Malassezia overgrowth may cause pruritus, otherwise not typically itchy
- **5** Skin lesions are typically seen before clinical signs associated with mediastinal mass
- 6 Presumptive diagnosis with medialstinal mass and skin histopathology findings

Paraneoplastic alopecia -Rare in senior cats

- 1 Rapid hair loss most often starting on the belly then extending to other areas. Hair epilates easily in affected areas
- 2 There may be secondary brown discharge and Malassezia dermatitis
- **3** The underlying skin is shiny and smooth. The nasal planum and paw pads may be shiny and smooth
- 4 Rapid weight loss, anorexia, and potentially abdominal pain
- 5 Diagnostics: abdominal ultrasound to locate pancreatic, liver, bilary, or intestinal mass
- 6 Skin biopsy can be diagnostic if you cannot locate mass on ultrasound or do not have access to abdominal ultrasound

A Food allergies - Common in senior cats

(May have been previously diagnosed or treated, especially those with GI signs, vomiting, diarrhea, hyporexia)

- 1 Hydrolyzed or novel protein diet for
- 2 Treatment of infection with topical / systemic antimicrobials
- 3 Treatment of severe itch with steroids can be performed at the beginning of food trial

B Non-flea, non-food hypersensitivity dermatitis -Common in senior cats

(May have been previously diagnosed or treated) 1 Consider short course of steroids if treat-

- ent of food allergies was not helpful
- 2 Consider Atopica® if indoor
- **3** Consider allergy testing followed by immunotherapy in cats with clinical signs more than 4 months per year Consider off-label Apoquel® if other options are not effective

Disomfort / pain related -Uncommon to rare in senior

overgrooming of the ventral abdomen

1 Bladder or abdominal pain may lead to

D Herpes Virus Dermatitis -Uncommon in senior cats

(May have been previously diagnosed in adulthood)

- Facially centered dermatitis. The bridge of the nose, nasal planum, and perioular region may have crust, erythema, and
- 2 There may be a concurrent or historical upper respiratory infection
- 3 Diagnosis via biopsy
- 4 Treatment may include stress reduction, discontinuation of immunosuppressive medications, and antivirals

Pemphigus foliaceus -Uncommon in senior cats

- 1 Pruritus can vary from non-existent
- 2 Yellow crusting, erythema, and hair loss
- 3 May involve the concave pinna, nose,
- bridge of nose, and face 4 May involve mammary papilla
- 5 May involve any area of haired skin
- 6 Paw pad scaling / crusting and nail bed discharge - Typically this is yellow in color and may be the only feature
- 7 Diagnosis via biopsy

F Behavioral - Uncommon to rare in senior cats

- 1 Behavioral causes of overgroon s overall uncommon to rare in the cat
- 2 It can appear identical to over grooming caused by Demodex gatoi, food allergy, and environmenta allergy

Hyperthyroidism -Common in senior cats

- **1** Hyperthyroid cats may have poor dry or greasy hair coats with matting
- 2 Some cats with hyperthroidism may overgroom the trunk
- **3** Claw growth may be increased
- 4 Total T4 levels can be used as initial screening

H Mosquito bite hypersensitivity - Uncommon in senior cats.

- 1 Most common in cats with outdoor access in summer time in Southern United States (and Mediterranean region).
- 2 Crusting and pruritus on the bridge of nose, nasal planum, and paw pads
- 3 Treatment involves bringing cat indoors and using steroids for initial pruritus

